

inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface defining a lumen extending between the first and second terminal ends, and the outer surface having a substantially smooth portion, the wall having,

Q1
a first outside cross-sectional diameter at the first terminal end, a second outside cross-sectional diameter at the second terminal end, at least one intermediate outside cross-sectional diameter at an intermediate location between the first and second terminal ends, each of the first and second outside cross-sectional diameters is greater than the intermediate outside cross sectional diameter, and

an expanded state and a collapsed state, the wall being adapted to spontaneously revert from the collapsed state to the expanded state.

Q2
4. A stent according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second terminal ends includes a retention ring having an expanded ring state and a collapsed ring state, the retention ring being adapted to spontaneously revert from the collapsed ring state to the expanded ring state, and, in the expanded ring state, the retention ring extending axially from the wall of the stent.

Q3
9. A stent according to claim 1 wherein
the first terminal end includes a first retention ring having a first expanded ring state and a first collapsed ring state and being adapted to spontaneously revert from the first collapsed ring state to the first expanded ring state to facilitate retention of the first retention ring within the bladder of the patient, the first retention ring extending axially from the wall of the stent in the first expanded ring state, and wherein

the second terminal end includes a second retention ring having a second expanded ring state and a second collapsed ring state and being adapted to spontaneously revert from the second collapsed ring state to the second expanded ring state to inhibit the second retention ring from passing through the external sphincter of the prostatic urethra of the patient, the second retention ring extending axially from the wall of the stent in the second expanded ring state.

Please add new claims 38-51 as follows.

14 38. A stent comprising,
first and second terminal ends spaced apart from each other, (at least one of the
first and second terminal ends comprising a retention ring having an expanded ring state
and a collapsed ring state,) and
a wall, disposed between the first and second terminal ends, and including an
inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface defining a lumen extending between
the first and second terminal ends, and the outer surface having a substantially smooth
portion, the wall having,
At Co¹ Could Co² be twist¹ to collapsed state
a first outside cross-sectional diameter at the first terminal end;
a second outside cross-sectional diameter at the second terminal end,
at least one intermediate outside cross-sectional diameter at an
intermediate location between the first and second terminal ends,
wherein at least one of the first and second outside cross-sectional diameters is
greater than the intermediate outside cross sectional diameter; and wherein, in the
expanded ring state, the retention ring extends axially from the wall of the stent,
and
an expanded state and a collapsed state, the wall being adapted to
spontaneously revert from the collapsed state to the expanded state.

2 39. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the first terminal end of the stent is adapted for
residing at a bladder end of a prostatic urethra of a patient and the second terminal end of
the stent is adapted for residing at an external sphincter end of the prostatic urethra.

3 40. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the substantially smooth portion of the outer
surface of the wall is adapted to inhibit tissue-in-growth.

4 41. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the retention ring is adapted to spontaneously
revert from the collapsed ring state to the expanded ring state.

5 42. A stent according to claim 41 wherein the retention ring includes an annular elastic core.

6 43. A stent according to claim 42 wherein the annular elastic core includes a nickel-titanium alloy.

7 44. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the first terminal end includes the retention ring adapted to spontaneously revert from the collapsed ring state to the expanded ring state to facilitate retention of the retention ring within the bladder of the patient.

8 45. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the second terminal includes the retention ring adapted to spontaneously revert from the collapsed ring state to the expanded ring state to inhibit the retention ring from passing through an external sphincter of the prostatic urethra of the patient.

9 46. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the wall further comprises at least one through aperture extending between the inner surface and the outer surface for providing fluid communication between the inner surface and the outer surface.

10 47. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the first outside cross-sectional diameter is greater than the second outside cross-sectional diameter.

11 48. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the second outside cross-sectional diameter is greater than the first outside cross-sectional diameter.

12 49. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the wall of the stent includes a radio-opaque material.

13 50. A stent according to claim 38 wherein the wall comprises a coating.

14 51. A stent comprising,
a first terminal end including a first retention ring, the first retention ring having a first expanded ring state and a first collapsed ring state and being adapted to spontaneously revert from the first collapsed ring state to the first expanded ring state to facilitate retention of the first retention ring within the bladder of the patient, the first retention ring extending axially from the wall of the stent in the first expanded ring state;

cr
At

a second terminal end spaced apart from the first terminal end and including a second retention ring, the second retention ring having a second expanded second ring state and a second collapsed ring state and being adapted to spontaneously revert from the second collapsed ring state to the second expanded ring state to inhibit the second retention ring from passing through the external sphincter of the prostatic urethra of the patient, the second retention ring extending axially from the wall of the stent in the second expanded ring state; and

a wall, disposed between the first and second terminal ends, and including an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface defining a lumen extending between the first and second terminal ends, and the outer surface having a substantially smooth portion, the wall having,

 a first outside cross-sectional diameter at the first terminal end;
 a second outside cross-sectional diameter at the second terminal end,
 at least one intermediate outside cross-sectional diameter at an intermediate location between the first and second terminal ends,
 wherein at least one of the first and second outside cross-sectional diameters is greater than the intermediate outside cross sectional diameter, and
 an expanded state and a collapsed state, the wall being adapted to spontaneously revert from the collapsed state to the expanded state.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-37 are pending in the application; however, claims 19-37 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to unelected inventive concepts. Claims 19-37 are hereby cancelled without prejudice and without any intention of abandoning the subject matter of these claims. Amended claim 1, as well as newly added claims 38 and 51, are independent claims under consideration.

All of the pending claims stand rejected as follows:

- Claims 1-12 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;